

## STAFF REPORT

TO: City Council's PED Committee                      DATE: April 19, 2016

FROM: Amber Weaver, Sustainability Officer                      PREPARED BY: Kerby Smithson,  
Sustainability Analyst

VIA: Gary Jackson, City Manager

SUBJECT: Update - City's Carbon Footprint FY 2015

**Summary Statement:** In FY 2015 the City of Asheville reduced our carbon footprint from municipal operations by 1.4% (as compared to baseline).

Review: In 2008, City Council established a 2% annual carbon footprint reduction goal. That goal was increased in 2011 to 4%. To date the City has managed to reduce its annual greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs) by a total of 7,974 metric tons of CO2 equivalent, which is a 28.6% reduction from the 2008 baseline, and slightly better than target.

Last year's reductions can be attributed to the following factors:

- Increased shift to compressed natural gas (CNG) in sanitation trucks
- Overall more efficient fleet from accelerated vehicle replacement in recent years
- Additional street light replacements
- Decreased facility electric usage (City Hall HVAC controls project, several lighting projects)

The City reduced its energy spending to \$4.6M, a reduction of approximately \$1M from the previous year. \$740k of this spending reduction was due to much lower fuel prices, while reduced street lighting costs and natural gas usage accounted for the remainder of the savings.

In the attached Carbon Reduction Plan for FY17, projects that have been identified by staff as ready to implement soon have been assessed to determine their potential carbon and fiscal impacts. The carbon impact from these projects has been estimated at 616 tons of metric tons of CO2 equivalent. With the 4% reduction goal, the annual target is a 1,114 metric ton reduction.

Attachment:  
(1) FY15 COA Carbon Footprint Update  
(2) Carbon Reduction Plan FY17